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From the Office of the Director of Health

Voluntary Recall of *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib) Vaccine

A voluntary recall of *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib) vaccine yesterday will not impact the Springfield-Greene County Health Department or its clients. Staff at the Westside Public Health Center checked their supply of Hib vaccine, but found none of the implicated lots.

Bacteria were found on Merck's vaccine manufacturing equipment during routine testing, but tests of the vaccine itself have not revealed any contamination. The recall is simply a precaution.

"The effectiveness of the vaccine has not been compromised," says administrator of maternal, child and family health Pam Bryant. "Children do not need to be revaccinated."

Although there have not been any reports of illness due to the vaccine, if a child was vaccinated with contaminated vaccine, there might be a risk of developing localized or disseminated infections. Immunocompromised children would be at greater risk for these infections. The infections would be most likely to occur within one week after vaccination.

"As a precautionary measure, parents whose children have recently received a dose of the recalled vaccine from a health care provider should watch for any signs of infection such as redness and swelling at the injection site within seven days of receiving the vaccine," adds Bryant. "If they notice an unusual reaction, they should contact their doctor or health care provider."

Merck & Co. initiated the voluntary recall on Wednesday for ten lots of PedvaxHIB® [Haemophilus b Conjugate Vaccine (Meningococcal Protein Conjugate)] and two lots of COMVAX® [Haemophilus b Conjugate (Meningococcal Protein Conjugate) and Hepatitis B (Recombinant) Vaccine]. The affected doses were distributed throughout the U.S. starting in April 2007.

Hib is given as a routine childhood immunization at 2, 4, 6 and 12-15 months of age. It protects children against serious bacterial disease that can lead to bacterial meningitis.

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